

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 38 and 78-96 are pending in the application. Claims 78-96 are withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected inventions. Claim 38 is under active consideration.

By amendment herein, claim 38 has been amended, and claims 2-4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to remove non-elected subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected subject matter in subsequent divisional applications.

Applicants submit that claim 38, as amended herein, is allowable as indicated by the Office Action at page 3.

Rejoinder

Applicants request that claims 78-96, drawn to methods of using the expression cassettes of Group II, be rejoined per the Commissioner's Notice in the Official Gazette of March 26, 1996, entitled "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)" which sets forth the rules, upon allowance of product claims, for rejoinder of process claims covering the same scope of products. Applicants request that claims 78-96 be rejoined and examined inasmuch as claim 38 is allowable.

Rejection Withdrawn

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the previous rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Sequence Listing

Applicants submit a revised sequence listing herewith. The paper copy of the sequence listing and the computer readable form are identical and no new matter has been added.

The revised sequence listing includes the sequences shown in Table 4 at page 107 of the specification and the sequences shown in Figures 105A-105C. SEQ ID NO:138 of the sequence listing submitted previously on May 29, 2003 was deleted in the new sequence listing because this sequence was identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:136. Table 4 has been amended accordingly to reflect the new numbering of the sequences in the revised sequence listing.

Applicants have also amended the description of Figures 105A-105C at page 27 to include the sequence identifiers SEQ ID NOS:143-147. Entry of the amendment to the specification and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is therefore respectfully requested.

Objection to Claim 38

Claim 38 has been amended in order to remove non-elected nucleotide sequences. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to claim 38 is respectfully requested.

Hyperlinks

The Examiner has objected to the presence of references to hyperlinks and/or other forms of browser-executable code in the specification (Office Action, page 2). Applicants have amended the specification to remove active hyperlinks and therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is fully in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner contemplates other action, or if a telephone conference would expedite allowance of the claims, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

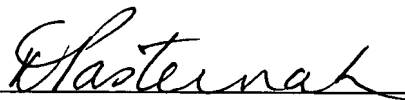
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and credit any overpayment of fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16, §1.17, or §1.21, to Deposit Account No. 18-1648.

Please direct all further written communications regarding this application to:

Helen Lee
Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics
Intellectual Property – R338
P. O. Box 8097
Emeryville, CA 94662-8097
Tel: (510) 923-2192
Fax: (510) 655-3542

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 18, 2007

By: 
Dahna S. Pasternak
Registration No. 41,411

Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics
Intellectual Property – R338
P. O. Box 8097
Emeryville, CA 94662-8097